CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising:

   a) a tubular means; said tubular means having a central bore for loosely receiving a tube of an endoscope; said tubular means having a flexible tube section, with a proximal end, adapted for sliding into a gastrointestinal tract and a rigid, expanded end section; said rigid, expanded end section including an internal means for communicating with said central bore;

   b) a collar means for forming an air- and water-tight seal between a head of said endoscope and said rigid, expanded end section; and

   c) a connecting means for connecting tubing to said internal means.

2. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near its proximal end.

3. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 in which said tube section further includes a medial pleat.

4. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a cap means for forming an air- and water-tight seal with said collar means

5. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 in which said internal means comprises two peripheral bores.

6. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.

7. A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising: a tube section with a proximal end; said tube section being flexible and adapted to slide into a gastrointestinal tract; an expanded end section with a distal end integral with said tube section; said expanded end section being rigid; said tube section having a central bore there through; said central bore being large enough to loosely receive a tube of an endoscope; said expanded end section having an internal means for communicating with said central bore; said expanded end section adapted at said distal end around said central bore to form an air- and water-tight seal with the head of said endoscope and to connect tubing to said internal means.

8. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near said proximal end.

9. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 in which said tube section further comprises a medial pleat.

10. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 further comprising a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal at said distal end around said central bore.

11. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 in which said internal means comprises two peripheral bores.

12. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.

13. A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising:

a) a tube having a tube proximal end and a tube distal end adapted to slide loosely into the gastrointestinal tract; said tube having a tube central bore; said tube central bore being large enough to loosely receive the tube of an endoscope;

b) a housing, having a housing proximal end and a housing distal end, attached at said housing proximal end to said tube distal end; said housing being the same outer diameter as said tube at said housing proximal end and of larger diameter at said

housing distal end; said housing having an internal means for communicating with said tube central bore;

c) a collar attached to said housing annularly with said housing central bore; said collar adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal with the head of said endoscope; and

d) a fitting attached to said housing; said fitting adapted to connect a tube to said internal means.

14. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 in which said tube further has a fenestration near said proximal end.

15. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 in which said tube further comprises a medial pleat.

16. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 further comprising a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal to said collar.

17. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 in which said internal means comprises a housing central bore and at least two peripheral bores communicating with said housing central bore within said housing; said housing central bore being coextensive with said tube central bore.

18. A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.

19. A method of performing gastrointestinal lavage comprising the steps of:

a) providing an apparatus having a tube section with a proximal end and an expanded end section with a distal end; said tube section being flexible and adapted to slide into the gastrointestinal tract; said expanded end section being rigid; said apparatus having a central bore there through; said central bore being large enough to loosely receive

the tube of an endoscope; said expanded end section having an internal means for communicating with said central bore; said expanded end section adapted at said distal end to form an air- and water-tight seal with the a of said endoscope and to connect tubing to said internal means;

b) sliding an endoscope tube first into said central bore until said endoscope head forms an air- and water-tight seal with said central bore;

c) connecting a lavage tube to one of said peripheral bores;

d) connecting a vacuum tube to the other of said peripheral bores;

e) inserting said endoscope and said apparatus into a gastrointestinal tract; and

f) manually controlling said apparatus with visual feedback from said endoscope to apply lavage and vacuum where and as needed within said gastrointestinal tract.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near said proximal end.

21. A method as claimed in claim 19 in which said tube section further comprises a medial pleat.

22. A method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

a) providing a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal at said distal end around said central bore;

b) turning off said lavage and vacuum;

c) removing said endoscope from said central bore;

d) capping said central bore with said cap; and

e) turning on said lavage and vacuum.

23. A method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

a) turning off said lavage and vacuum;

b) removing said endoscope from said central bore;

c) attaching a lavage tube to said central bore; and

d) turning on said lavage and vacuum.

24. A method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

a) turning off said lavage and vacuum;

b) removing said endoscope from said central bore;

c) attaching a vacuum tube to said central bore; and

d) turning on said lavage and vacuum.